

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Muffy Berryhill
(530) 229-8300

NEW COMMISSIONER APPOINTED TO FIRST 5 SHASTA

(Redding, CA) – The new director of Shasta County Social Services has been appointed to the Shasta Children and Families First Commission, also known as First 5 Shasta. Sher Huss replaces Del Skillman as one of seven Shasta Commissioners. Commissioners are appointed by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, in compliance with the California Children and Families Act (Proposition 10).

Huss brings many years of experience in the social services field to the Commission. Prior to joining Shasta County Social Services, her recent professional experience included director of Siskiyou County Human Services and serving on the Siskiyou Children and Families Commission. According to Muffy Berryhill, executive director of First 5 Shasta, “Sher’s expertise in social services and her keen interest in the well-being of young children will be a major strength for First 5 Shasta.” As a member of the Shasta Commission, Huss will contribute to making decisions about the distribution and implementation of the county’s Proposition 10 revenues.

Members of the Shasta Commission are:

Andrew Deckert, M.D., M.P.H., Public Health Officer, Shasta County Public Health
Sher Huss, Director, Shasta County Social Services
Karen Kratzer, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, Shasta County Office of Education
Supervisor David A. Kehoe, Health & Welfare Liaison, Shasta County Board of Supervisors
Barbara Lapp, Local Child Care Planning Council
Judie Englesby-Smith, Director, Shasta Head Start
Maxine Wayda, Clinical Division Chief, Shasta County Mental Health

Research shows that a child’s brain develops most dramatically in the first five years and what parents and caregivers do during these years to support their child’s growth will have a meaningful impact throughout life. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 in 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to support programs for expectant parents and children ages 0 to 5. First 5 Shasta has invested over \$8 million in our community, committing Prop. 10 revenues to programs and services that meet local needs.

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